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**Elmwood Middle School Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Empowering Students**

*Named a distinguished school for STEM and career learning program*

**Bloomdale, OH** – For the second year in a row Elmwood Middle School announced today that it has been recognized as a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for providing broad access to transformative learning opportunities for students through PLTW Gateway. It is one of just 176 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor. [PLTW](#) is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in over 12,200 schools across the U.S. There is a total of 270 PLTW Gateway middle school programs in the state of Ohio and Elmwood is 1 of only 18 schools to receive this recognition.

"Elmwood Middle School is very pleased to receive this award and distinction for the second year in a row," said Middle School Principal Roger Frank after learning of the national recognition. "The consistency of our excellent program speaks volumes about our students, staff, and especially Mr. Eric Poffenbaugh, our PLTW teacher, who has worked diligently at developing and maintaining an elite PLTW program here at Elmwood."

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Elmwood Middle School had to meet the following criteria:

- Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;
- Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2018-19 school year;
- Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units,
- have strategies and supports in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, gender and can support such claims with relevant data.

Through PLTW programs, students develop STEM knowledge as well as in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. PLTW Gateway empowers students to lead their own discovery and uncover a range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

“It is a great honor to recognize Elmwood Middle School for their commitment to providing students with an excellent educational experience,” said Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of PLTW. “They should be very proud of their work to ensure students have the knowledge and skills to be career ready and successful on any career path they choose.”

Elmwood Middle School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering learning opportunities. For more information about PLTW’s recognition program, visit [pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition](http://pltw.org/our-programs/program-recognition).

**Project Lead The Way (PLTW)** is a mission-driven organization that is transforming the learning experience for millions of PreK-12 students and thousands of teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW’s teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. Approximately 12,200 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit [pltw.org](http://pltw.org).

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